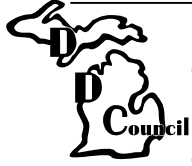


The



# Monday Update

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## **June rally at the Capitol!**

## **Task force efforts yield executive order**

The scene at the Capitol on June 9th for Action Day was, by all accounts, very exciting. Hundreds of self-advocates, advocates and senior citizens converged on the state's best known building for an action day rally in honor of long term care reform.

They came from all over Michigan to witness Gov. Jennifer Granholm accept the

Long Term Task Force's report. The governor also signed an executive order that

placed into effect recommendations from the Long Term Task Force.

Besides DD Council members and staff, the Regional Interagency Coordinating Committees (RICCs) were very much in evidence at the rally. Members present included those from Wayne, Macomb, Lapeer, Genesee, Washtenaw, Berrien and Ottawa RICCs. Also making the trip were members of the Alger-Marquette RICC from the Upper Peninsula.

Shifting Long-term care reform is a collective effort to provide a wide selection of care choices for supports and services. This will make care available for everyone, regardless of income. Those who wish may choose to live and receive care in their own homes. As work goes on to reform the LTC system, other issues will be affected, such as making housing affordable and accessible, and increasing the availability of accessible public transportation.

## ***Part of Community Health***

In her executive order of June 9, the Governor created the Long Term Care Supports and Services Office as part of the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH). This office will assist in establishing policy and implementing strategies for the task force recommendations.

The executive order also creates a commission with more than 50 percent consumers that will assist the Supports and Services Office.

A third section of the executive order instructs MDCH to work toward establishing a single point of entry for those who need supports and services.

The campaign to raise a public voice for long-term care reform started with the June 9<sup>th</sup> Action Day and continues throughout the summer in communities across Michigan.

## ***Action goes local***

Local groups will host educational events for people in their respective communities. Included will be local legislators who will learn more about efforts to rebalance the public long-term care system.

The June 9 rally featured a selection of speakers in addition to the Governor. There was an education tent with lots of

information, and a chance to link up with a person's state senator or representative, either electronically, or in person.

## ***Task Force history***

The Long Term Care Task Force of 21 members was created by the Governor last year to review the long term care situation in Michigan, including "the relationship between state and federal Medicaid long-term funding...." The task force was charged with making the recommendations presented on June 9.

The task force was created in the wake of the Olmstead legal decision by the U.S. Supreme Court. The court said that under the Americans with Disabilities Act, people with disabilities have the right to live in the most inclusive setting possible, and these living choices must be made by the individual.

Olmstead generated interest in the long-standing belief that living situations for people with disabilities must change; that people's rights must be exercised, and that they have the right to receive home and community-based services resulting from choices.

## ***The letter of the law?***

Whether the letter of the law is being followed or not is a matter of opinion. Clearly in Michigan little was being done to advise seniors and people with disabilities who live in nursing homes; many against their wishes.

However, in the wake of Olmstead, a court case in Michigan yielded a settlement requiring the governor to create the task force "to assist in the development of options for expanding the availability of home-based and community-based long-

term care services, and for improving long-term care services.”

This Michigan case, *Eager vs. Engler and Haveman*, lifted a freeze that was imposed on enrollment in MIChoice, the state’s home and community-based waiver program. Part of the settlement called for the Governor to establish the Medicaid Long-Term Care Task Force.

But changes in long term care are not entirely up to the task force, the Governor and legislators. Individual advocates can also do their part using this three-point plan for change:

### **Number one...**

Briefly, (1) whenever the chance occurs, we can drive home the idea that money follows the person. That means the dollars a Medicaid recipient receives for supports and services are directed toward those supports and services he or she chooses and uses. The alternative is having somebody else decide where the money is to be spent....they just may sign you up for a nursing home and off you go, following the money there.

### **Secondly...**

Advocates (2) can also insist on a single entry point for finding services and supports in our respective communities. This will make it much easier to locate services without which we might wind up in a nursing home.

And as advocates, we can demand that our communities provide more LTC alternatives. The more choices we have, the more supports we can receive. This may mean living where we choose, or living in a nursing home. This is a choice that should

make us stand up raise our voices as we make our demands.

Demanding and raising voices means a person must stay informed on the issues in question.

### **And finally...**

Yet another effective solution (3) may be supporting career caregivers. Long-time professional caregivers are a cornerstone of the community and provide continuing support for quality care and supports. If nursing homes are to improve services and supports, such change must have the backing of professional caregivers who care about the system.

Medicaid, nursing homes and long term care are an important and complex relationship that seems to change by the minute. To change the system, a person must keep up with the issues and needs to find out just who in his or her community is advocating for change in these systems. Who has the loudest voice when it comes to advocating? Contact them and offer your time and talents.

Another key to change is for you to get to know your state legislators. Contact them now with your concerns about Medicaid and long term care costs. Chances are they have a local office in the area. You can access the Internet and find your senator and representative. Just log on to the state’s website at [michigan.gov](http://michigan.gov). In the upper left corner of the page you’ll see a bar titled “Michigan Government.” Click there and you’ll easily find state policymaker contact information. If you do not have Internet access, try your local library. Most do have access now.



***More photos from the June 9, 2005 rally at the Capitol!***







## **Taxing physicians is one idea** **Possible to temporarily** **ease Medicaid dollar** **shortage by...taxation?**

It's no secret that Michigan's Medicaid program has serious money problems. Both the state and federal governments contribute money to Michigan's Medicaid program.

The main problem with the program is: less money to spend because of less tax dollars for services at a time when more and more people are signing up for these services. Anybody who qualifies for Medicaid services must receive them.

Another major problem: the services are getting more expensive and medical costs are increasing every day.

## ***Restrict rising payments***

State officials are trying to keep Medicaid costs down. Some of the results are: keeping a lid on rising provider payments; watching managed care costs; and maintaining a list of preferred drugs.

The result is a need to look at Medicaid services provided by the state with the idea of possibly cutting some services, as has happened in recent years.

Besides reducing benefits, another solution might be lowering eligibility for some age groups. Or, find other sources of money to help pay for the Medicaid services.

## ***Taxes not popular?***

Many solutions to this critical problem have been discussed. One idea is to raise taxes or start a new tax. This idea may not be popular with the state Legislature. Also, the people who would have to pay the increase or the new tax might not like it either. A new tax must be approved and

passed as law by the state Legislature. Then it must be signed by the Governor.

One new tax being proposed is a tax on medical doctors who provide services to patients with Medicaid. This is called a "physician provider tax." This would be a first, but there are other such taxes. Hospitals and nursing homes have provider taxes.

## ***Get money back***

The Governor has proposed taxing doctors who treat Medicaid patients, but some doctors could receive money back. This would depend on how many Medicaid patients a doctor sees. People who support the tax say this would encourage doctors to see more Medicaid patients. Some doctors feel that regular taxes should pay for Medicaid.

Those who do not support the idea of such a tax also believe that if a doctor passes along the cost of the tax to other patients, mostly those who pay out-of-pocket. Other objections include taxing the incomes of just one group of people and possibly make more doctors leave Michigan for a state without the tax.

Alternatives to the tax could be bad. For example, lawmakers might discontinue Medicaid coverage for 19- and 20-year-olds and caretaker relatives.

## **New mini-grant RFP package available**

The DD Council has announced a new Request for Proposal (RFP). It is for RICC-Endorsed Community Mini-Grants and was available as of July 15.

The package number is 2005D. "RICC" is short for Regional Interagency Coordinating Committee.

The RFP and proposal forms have been simplified, and more money is available than in the past. If your organization has not considered the mini-grant recently, you may want to look at the new package. The projects will center on:

- Organizing grassroots advocacy;
- Coordinating services; or
- Increasing capacity for supports for people with developmental disabilities.

Projects must address a DD Council area of emphasis.

Grants are for one year, for four to six local projects. The most that can be spent on any one project is \$12,000. A total of \$48,000 is available.

For anyone considering a proposal, the Council is holding a bidders' conference in Lansing on Aug. 11, 2005. It starts at 1:30 p.m. at the Council office, 1033 S. Washington Ave. For more about the bidders' conference, contact the Council grants manager, Cheryl Trommater, at 517-334-7023, or grants monitor, Glenn Ashley, at 517-334-7241.

**Deadlines:** A proposal first must go to the local RICC for approval. Each RICC can only endorse one proposal. Deadline for submitting to the local RICC is 2:30 p.m., **Sept. 14, 2005.**

The deadline for getting a proposal to the Council office is 2:30 p.m., **Sept. 28, 2005.**

Projects that are submitted without a RICC endorsement will not be considered.

The RFP on the Council's website is in Adobe Acrobat, for which Acrobat Reader is required. The website address is [www.michigan.gov/ddcouncil](http://www.michigan.gov/ddcouncil). You will also need the proposal form, instructions, and the related information and tools package.

To request a hardcopy of the RFP, call Mitzi Allen at 517-334-7240, or 334-7354 (TDD). You can also request an RFP by email at [DDCouncilGrants@michigan.gov](mailto:DDCouncilGrants@michigan.gov)

## Transportation grant update – coalitions are the key

They have coalitions – and success - in common!

A statewide DD Council grant and a successful series of five local transportation grants used coalitions to improve transportation services. The projects served Kent, Livingston, Flint, Muskegon, Mason, Lake and Oceana Counties. They worked closely with transit providers, advocates, policy makers, and the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) to advocate for improved public transit.

Each local project established an advocacy coalition that, in turn, produced strategic plans. The projects all struggled with some common issues and experienced problems due to the economic downturn.

Each project has had successful results in increasing services, and improving service quality and public awareness in transit services.

While all the grants are ending, the coalitions will continue working toward reliable and accessible public transportation in their respective communities.

One of the projects' successes was in coalition building. Initially, some projects had excellent participation by people with disabilities. These people held leadership positions in the coalition, but had difficulties in getting agency participation.

Others had strong organizational partners, including county executives, but limited consumer membership. Most of the projects experienced limited multi-cultural participation. As the coalitions developed, they moved toward a better balance of members.

The strategic plans were very different from one another because of the differences in the counties and existing transportation

services. Some of the most significant activities and accomplishments of the coalitions are:

### ***Kent County Coalition***

was a major partner in passing a millage and advocating for and securing an increase in the proposed millage amount. The coalition created a transportation directory, reviewed the transit system and proposed changes on accessibility issues such as modified fare boxes. Coalition members' consistent attendance at transit board and advisory committee meetings makes them a force that cannot be ignored as changes and new transit options are being considered.

### ***The Livingston County***

Transportation Coalition received the County Collaborative Team of the Year award for its effectiveness in consumers advocating with professionals to increase the number of routes, days of service, and ridership. Coalition members were extremely successful in getting elected officials involved in the coalition and supporting the development of transportation services in the county. Their motto is "the bus is for everyone." They published and distributed thousands of copies of a ride guide to get their message across.

### ***Leaders for Action in Flint***

uses Mystery Riders to assess the quality of services. The project created real complaint procedures and successfully opposed some transit cuts. This group was very successful in creating a coalition of people with a wide range of disabilities. They succeeded in getting the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) certification application reduced from 17 pages to four pages, and continue to assist people in applying for the ADA certification.

### ***The TRIP Coalition***

in Mason, Lake, Oceana Counties did an excellent study of transportation services and needs in its area. Members secured MDOT funding for a transportation study, which included recommendations for increased services. Their coalition has a wide scope of people, that included agencies as well as public officials. They started a RICC and used that as a basis for getting consumer participation in the project. Consumers took an active role in the millage campaigns, including door-to-door canvassing and distributing literature at public events. The project organized many public meetings and made over 200 presentations to local groups.

### ***Muskegon Moves Coalition***

started slowly but made significant progress. With the assistance of a consultant, the coalition's members developed a strategic plan that provides focus for their work through various changes. Members serve on advisory committees that are reshaping and reviewing proposals for transportation services. They also provide sensitivity training for drivers and policy makers. The training is based on a video that takes a very positive approach.

The local projects created a *Transportation Advocacy Handbook* useful to anyone interested in transportation advocacy or forming a local coalition. The statewide project, Everyone Travels, developed four other publications in collaboration with the Michigan Land Use Institute. They are *The New Economic Engine*, *The Regional Ride*, *10 Ways to Increase Michigan's Prosperity*, and *Follow the Money*.

Everyone Travels, was featured in an earlier Monday Update, which is available on the DD Council website, [www.michigan.gov/ddcouncil](http://www.michigan.gov/ddcouncil).



For more information about the projects and their work, contact the DD Council office, or one of the local projects that had success in the area of your interest.

Contact information for the projects:  
Changing Transportation for Changing Lives

The Arc of Livingston

Phone: 517-546-1228

<http://www.arclivingston.org/>

Concerned Citizens for Improved Transit  
Disability Advocates of Kent County

Phone: 616-949-1100

<http://www.disabilityadvocates.us/>

Muskegon Moves Coalition  
Disability Awareness Center for  
Independent Living

Phone: 231-830-0099

[www.dcilmi.org.com](http://www.dcilmi.org.com)

Leaders for Action - Transportation  
The Disability Network  
Flint, MI

Phone: 810-742-1800

[www.disnetwork.org](http://www.disnetwork.org)

The TRIP Coalition  
West Michigan Child and Family  
Leadership Council  
Lake, Mason and Oceana Counties

Phone: 231-843-5476

[www.wmcmhs.org](http://www.wmcmhs.org)

Everyone Travels!  
United Cerebral Palsy Association of  
Michigan

Phone: 800-828-2714

[www.ucpmichigan.org](http://www.ucpmichigan.org)

Michigan Land Use Institute

Phone: 231-882-4723

[www.mlui.org](http://www.mlui.org)

## **Council committee and work group meeting minutes**

### ***Education Work Group***

May 17, 2005

Attendance in person – Mark McWilliams,  
Loreena Parks, Marta Hampel, Jane  
Spitzley, Glenn Ashley, Bud Kraft  
Phone –Jane Reagan,

1.) Approval of April 19, 2005 Minutes  
Jane R moved to accept the minutes as  
presented, and add the addendum from Mark  
McWilliams to the end.

2.) Report on Council retreat and  
meeting

- Education WG proposals at the retreat  
Evaluation of Everyone Together  
was ranked #8 out of 17.  
Promoting Early Childhood  
Inclusion was ranked #6.

The Early Childhood Investment Corp is  
being looked at as a 10 year project towards  
universal preschool. Mark is meeting with  
Joan Blough about inclusion of children  
with disabilities.

MDE may be looking for people to be on  
the design team. The MDE web site has a lot  
of new info on the planning process. The  
initial group did not have the viewpoint of  
people with disabilities, but the language  
was inclusive, for all children.

The Council could send a letter to Joan  
promoting inclusion for students with  
disabilities, and addressing the concept of  
universal as all together, not just preschool  
for everyone.

It will be tricky to design a system for  
everyone together with existing funding  
streams.

- Presentation on accessibility of meetings

We thought the presentation went fine. The presenters learned a lot from the audience. This is the first time they presented to people beyond their immediate colleagues.

We didn't introduce them well, say why they were there, and what we hoped to accomplish.

We would like send to people who attended the presentation the reasoning behind the presentation. We can forward the PowerPoint to RICCs so they could present to their RICC.

We can ask if people have made any plans to implement any of those ideas. We can also send responses to questions that the presenters promised to get back to us with answers.

The presentation did generate considerable discussion, which was one of the goals. Big issues are making meetings more accessible to people with cognitive impairments, and especially parliamentary procedure. The Council is working on training on this.

Some people felt that we should have had people with disabilities make the presentations.

We want to keep a spotlight on this, and grow it within the council.

When we bring our work plans to the Nov 15 special council meetings, we will need to discuss what we plan to propose for the 2007-2011 work plan. We can also discuss meeting accessibility in our work plan.

We had to eliminate the other parts of our program due to time constraints.

- Recommended for next year's retreat  
The Council should spend more time on budget, less on presentations.

### 3.) Education Summit and Universal Education Advocacy – Next Steps

The Council waived the match for the Education Summit by a unanimous vote.

We discussed possibly getting the steering committee going, while waiting for a facilitator/coordinator. The group did not believe delegating it to a steering committee would not help.

The Summit concept seems to have fizzled and lost focus as time has passed.

We agreed we should step back and see what the best use of the money is. A summit can take many forms. Jill England got group together in New Mexico. Sandy Laham had said she would be willing to meet with us to help us refocus.

We called Sandy from the meeting, and set up the meeting for:

Wed June 8 at the DD Conf at noon. We will arrange for lunch.

We will invite all of the WG, pull together and refine our strategy.

### 4.) Public comment on IDEIA and Michigan rule revisions.

Webcast of IDEIA 2004 tomorrow (5/18), to discuss progress on proposed rules. Not clear if the rules will be announced. The nearest public hearing on federal rules is in Chicago.

A new category in AYP for "persistently academically disadvantaged" who will be able to have alternative assessments. This makes a total of 3% of students who can have alternate assessments.

- DD Council letters of comment on rules.

Michigan forms are currently out. There are some substantive problems with the forms. Mark will have his comments drafted and sent out by Monday. He will send them to the work group. The Council should review those, and send in our comments.

There are policy guidelines on private schools, which will be controversial, and put

the state in the role of approving private placements.

- Individual comments

Public Hearings start next week. The comment period ends June 15. Individuals are encouraged to sent their comments.

5.) Updates

- State Board of Education

The State Dept of Education's Seclusion and Restraint Referent group is meeting tomorrow (5/18). They will be reacting to public comments, and coming up with strategic directives on what should happen next. Mark believes it is a strong document.

The work should be reviewed, and if the WG concurs, a letter could be sent to the Department thanking them for their courageous stand in support of students.

The position applies to all students, not just Special Ed, which is a great strength. The Department stuck by it in spite of opposition.

Superintendent candidates list has been narrowed to 3. Interviews are tomorrow (5/18) starting at 9:00, and will be on MGTV, open to the public. Weblink for "meet the finalists" on the MDE web page.

- Detroit Public Schools issues

MPAS plans to meet with the Detroit Special Ed Director to discuss concerns about segregation of more students and increasing use of center based program.

- Brochures on the Michigan Children's Agenda 2005 were distributed.

The council is not a signatory on the document. We should consider becoming one next year.

6.) Adjournment

Jane moved that we adjourn until our June 8 special meeting. Marta seconded, and motion carried.

NEXT MEETINGS will be at the DD Council Office, on:

Wednesday, June 8 at noon – special meeting with a facilitator to plan strategies for Universal Education/Summit.

Tuesday, June 21 at 10:00 – regular work group meeting.

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### ***Family Support Work Group***

May 18, 2005

Members Present: Audrey Craft, Kim Ries, Laura Mahank, Billy Igafo-Teo, Jackie Igafo-Teo, Ricarda Pope-King, Darlene Johnson, Abby Shannon, Marianne Huff, Paul Newman, Cassandra Montgomery, Lori Goike, Bud Kraft,Carolyn Allston-Smith

Welcome and introductions were done.

The group reviewed the draft Field Guide to Respite for Families. Copies of the guide were disbursed to members. Following the lengthy discussion, the group agreed that a subcommittee should be formed to review the guide further. Audrey will reconvene a subcommittee to review again as there were many suggestions to be incorporated.

At the June 15 meeting, the group will review the "Field Guide to Respite for Professionals" as the first agenda item, time permitting.

Audrey motioned to approve the March meeting minutes, Lori seconded. Motion approved.

Discussed the Family Gathering planning and additional suggestions were made for members to contact.



- Lansing State Journal donations (day before newspaper)
- Invite Legislators

Area

## Micro-enterprises

Section 8/MSHDA

Student Services/Colleges

Bud

## CSHCS Trust Funds

Bud

MSU Community School of Music

Carolyn

## Advocacy Couple

Advocacy Friends of DD

Cassandra

## Volunteers

OT Students

## Neutral Zone

## Cassandra

## Special Olympics volunteers to help Lori

## Equipment

Tarp to cover band area or provide shade

## Long extension cords

Toys/tokens

Next meeting: June 15 from 10:00 am – 1:00 pm.

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## ***Health Issues Work Group***

March 22, 2005

Members present: Yvonne Fleener, Kathy Reynolds, Pam Hall and Vera Graham

Staff present: Terry Hunt, Vendella Collins

Discussed other activities and events:

- Sensory items (talk with OT)
- Make silly putty (Elmer's glue, liquid starch, baggies) as an activity
- Homemade play dough (plan and add colors)
- Sunscreen booth
- Polaroid pictures of self and event (cost of these?)
- Kites
- Easy to make hats from newsprint
- Need lots of magic markers

Other contacts and follow-ups:

- Cassandra will check on volunteers from Neutral Zone – make pom poms
- Super bubbles (Toys R Us)
- Laura looked up some games that could be played on the basketball court (no basketball)
- Carolynne will ask someone to write directions from different locations (East, West, North, South)
- RICCs – already sent out Hold the Date flyer for this event
- Carolynne will go look at the park
- Extension cords that could manage enough power: amps, keyboard, woofers

**Transportation Work Group**  
May 12, 2005

## Members Present

Lansing: Katherine Janego, Linda Potter, Angel Fandialan, Sharon Blowers, Diane Kempen, Pam Hall, Bud Beebe, Doug Anderson, Paul Palmer, Tandy Bidinger

Detroit: Tommy Meadows, Robert Robleski, Charles Stedman, Andre Robinson, Henry Johnson

Kalamazoo: Michele McGown, Don Milbeck

Welcome and introductions were done.

The ground rules for the meeting were reviewed.

The April 14, 2005 minutes need to be corrected and e-mailed to the TWG members before they can be approved. Approval will be at the June 9 meeting.

Charter regulation – usually a group going to a certain destination.

## Legislative Updates:

SAFETEA article was discussed on how it has an impact on Michigan. It would increase Michigan's share of the transportation budget. If Michigan was a donor state, would this change? The problem is that we are required to provide state and local match and we may not have it. Possible solutions to this problem:

- add toll on roads in Michigan
- short-term solution: state needs to put more dollars in the CTF

Most of the gasoline tax (at least 90%) goes to roads and construction. Only 10%

can to go public transportation. Also sales tax on motor vehicle related articles.

## Success Stories:

- 1.) Alpena RICC conference/TWG involvement
- 2.) TWG grant projects were approved
- 3.) Tommy Meadows: DDOT has a new accessibility plan, helped consumers re-write training plan – sensitivity training. Tommy also had input on the design of the new buses. Detroit will share information on the training program with the TWG members.
- 4.) Detroit: free/discount rates for persons with disabilities. There is a certification process for persons with disabilities. Have “undercover riders” – complaint process
- 5.) Kalamazoo – The D.R.C. Writing letters to transportation providers regarding Greyhound. Was going to be at the transfer station downtown. The Greyhound and Indian Trails buses are moving to the airport. Public transit providers are losing money as a result.
- 6.) CATA (Lansing) – 13 new smaller buses and adding some new services. Shopping is one service they will be adding.
- 7.) Livingston – 4.5 new bus drivers and one new bus, expanding routes to be flexible.
- 8.) Doug Anderson is working on getting some new vehicles; creating a new Local Advisory Council (LAC) in a new area. He also does grant work.

## RFP Voucher Updates: Wayne beginning



Tandy will e-mail a final draft to the TWG before the end of the month. The finished product will be available at the June meeting.

Next meeting: June 9 from 10:00am – Noon.

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## ***Multicultural Committee***

May 9, 2005

Present: Pam Hall; Sophie Baker; Mitzi Allen; Glenn Ashley; Tai Martin; Terry Hunt; Rick Van Horn.

Call to Order by Hall.

Approval of April's summary minutes.  
Passed.

Additions to, and approval of, this month's agenda. Passed as written.

Introductions – First timers - Sophie Baker, Michigan Department of Civil Rights, replaces the retiring Larry Betz. Tai Martin, coordinator for the Center for Creative Leadership, a MDRC grant, introduced herself.

## Old Business

Plans are progressing in the September RICC retreat's outreach programs. The first day of the retreat will feature a daylong presentation by the Michigan Department of Civil Rights on diversity and outreach.

Committee members and retreat planners hope to install a disabilities element into the program. An excellent place in the program for this is the timeline of events in history.

Committee members agree this may be a  
place to insert a disability history of

sorts....but not so much as to weaken the presentation. Al Flores would be the person at Civil Rights to make such changes. Hunt also reminded the Committee that the Civil Rights program would be playing to a larger audience than usual.

Allen reminded the group that the retreat's focus is outreach to persons of color and changing Civil Rights' established and proven program to reflect outreach to persons with disabilities would not necessarily accomplish that.

For the presentation, the issues are the same – outreach and bridging community gaps. Baker said she would work with the Civil Rights program to place outreach and awareness within the program in the future.

Allen reminded the group that RICC outreach is not a black/white issue, but rather to increase the presence of people of color in the advocacy network.

Van Horn has not spoken with the intended retreat speaker, Karen DeCuir-DiNicola, GM's manager of diversity initiatives. The retreat planning committee is not yet certain how to place the speaker in the two-day agenda. Van Horn is waiting for solid scheduling from the committee information before again contacting Ms. DeCuir-DiNicola. The Committee discussed retreat plans with Hunt, focusing on which day and which time might be best for the GM manger to speak.

Hall's Office of Aging recently hired former FIA's diversity coordinator. Hall will invite her to the next Committee meeting for her input and as part time member.

The agenda called for discussing the Arc Michigan's request that the Committee

- ## 1. Call to Order and Introductions

2. Minutes of the October 27, 2004 meeting were approved with the following change: on page under “Other Business”, Corrie Bair’s name needs to be corrected.

3. 9:45 a.m. Plan for April 12 DD Council meeting

The two items planned for the program will be:

1. Presentation of the Housing Policy for adoption by the Council
2. Presentation of grant concepts for the 5-year plan.

An ad hoc sub-committee will prepare the presentations, and make adjustments in the plan, if necessary. It will be composed of Linda, Corrie, and chairs of the standing sub-committees. (Heidi is ex officio)

4. 10:00 a.m. Strategic planning  
Several possible grant project ideas were discussed. The notes are attached at the end of the minutes.

We will not have another work group meeting before the April 15 deadline for plan language for the council mailing.

Any proposals will need to be developed between now and the next meeting. Look over these notes, the notes from forums, and the Housing Advocacy Strategy for other ideas. Forward ideas to the subcommittee, who will compile them and email them back to the work group members for further development

**ACTION** – Motion by Corrie, seconded by Tony, to authorize the subcommittee to complete the position statements and approve them for submission to the Council. Carried.

5. Review of Consolidated Position Statement and

6. Review of Executive Summary

The two documents were reviewed together. The executive summary is essentially excerpts from the larger document, but that was done before the multicultural elements were added. Alternate wordings were discussed on several items in the summary. Cheryl Trommater agreed to put together the changes, along with reconciling the wordings between the two documents. They will be sent to the sub-committee chairs for comments, and then to the rest of the work group.

It was suggested, and approved by consensus, that the large document be renamed the Housing Advocacy Strategy, and that the Executive Summary be renamed as the “DD Council Housing Position Statement,” to be submitted to the Council for approval.

**ACTION** – Linda Potter moved that the subcommittee be authorized to approve the Position Statement, following comments from work group members, for submission to the DD Council for adoption. Tony seconded, and the motion carried.

7. Next Steps – Allies and potential allies

The list was edited for accuracy.

8. Other Business

Affordable Housing Conference – Corrie Bair gave a brief update. MDRC will have a booth. The MACIL visitability group will be using it, and others are welcome to join. Several people representing accessibility interests are now on the conference committee.

**ACTION** – Mark Craig moved to request that the Council apply to be a Bronze Sponsor at the Housing Conference. Linda seconded. The motion carried. The reasons given were that this would



provide the Council with 2 registrations, a booth, an ad in the program, and a more significant presence for the issue of accessibility in the conference.

Housing work group table for the Council Legislative Reception on Feb. 8. We will show the PowerPoint presentation from the Council retreat on a loop at the table.

Draft Work group brochure – Corrie has submitted it to Rick Van Horn for putting into a brochure format. We will need to review it at a future meeting.

Common Disability Agenda. Pat Cannon will be accepting the report on behalf of the governor on Wednesday, February 2.

Visitability Legislation is being introduced this week by Rep. Lorence Wenke. It will be HB 4787.

**ACTION** – It was agreed by consensus to send comments to Rep. Wenke suggesting that the word “handicaps” be changed to “disabilities.” in the one place it appears, if the change has not already been made before the introduction of the bill.

9. Next meetings will be:

April 27 9:30 a.m., DD Council Office

July 27: 9:30 a.m., DD Council Office

**Tasks before the next meeting**, to be completed by the sub-committee (with staff support as needed) composed of Linda, Corrie, Heidi as ex officio, and chairs of the standing sub-committees:

- Preparation for April 12 Council meeting.
- Development of proposal ideas.
- Drafting needed plan language.
- Completion of the Housing Position Statement and Housing Advocacy Strategy documents.

Staff will discuss the motions to request the Housing Conference sponsorship and

Benton Harbor proposal with Vendella and/or the Executive Committee, as needed.

10. Adjourned at noon.

***Public Policy Committee***

April 12, 2005

**Members Present:** Andre Robinson, Todd Koopmans, Jacqui Day, Jane Reagan, Pamela Hall, Jane Spitzley, Robyn Saylor, Marcia DeWild, Autumn DeWild, James Holley, Bruce Parney, Carol Parney, Elmer Cerano, Joan Wallace.

**Staff Present:** Rick Van Horn, Tandy Bidinger, Terry Hunt, Tai Martin, and Bud Kraft.

The meeting minutes from the previous PPC meeting were approved.

**Project Proposal**

We discussed our proposed project “Informed Communities on Public Policy Issues.” We generated some possible topics, such as the new Medicare prescription drug program and its impact on dual eligibles, Social Security/ S.S.I., and Freedom to Work (Employment). Another idea was Computer Literacy.

There were some concerns raised that the \$20,000 per year we are asking for may not be enough. It was proposed that we raise it to \$25,000 per year. One reason for the proposed change was the desire to get people from across the state, to the events.

While teleconferencing and/or video conferencing is an option, the group thought it would be most beneficial to have

participants there in person. An idea was to have RICC members use their travel funds, and treat the forums as CRC (Council of RICC Chairs) events. This would not apply to non-RICC members who may wish to attend.

After discussing this, the group decided to raise the requested amount for the grant proposal to \$25,000/year. The draft plan language will be changed accordingly. It was also mentioned that it would be good to videotape the forums.

We have decided that there will be one grantee that will plan and run the forums. They will also secure locations and speakers, publicize, and conduct surveys and/or evaluations. The PPC would provide guidance in terms of the topics.

Other ideas for the forums are to use them as a way for consumers to contact their legislators on important issues. Proposed budget cuts will have a severe impact on people with disabilities. These forums can be used as a way to mobilize people on critical topics.

Creating a personal action plan at the forums is one way to encourage follow-up activities. Additional ideas are to have participants write letters to legislators, while they are there. The grantee could ask to keep copies of the letters, and they could be written using laptops (and having typists available). The letters would be sent out that day.

More ideas for follow-up are phone calls to participants to support, encourage and act as coach/cheerleader to make that the follow-up activities planned take place. Also, we'd like a resource list for each topic. A rally is another type of follow-up activity.

More ideas for future topics were generated: Quality of Life (similar to the Schiavo case): who defines it for PWD? The topic of Assisted Suicide and Advanced Directives are related. This may also be a good "Monday Update" topic. Leadership and Empowerment were other suggested topics.

There is a rally planned for June 9 on the Capital lawn re: Long Term Care. Members were encouraged to participate.

#### PPC Brochure

The draft is complete. We had input from various members, and have made suggested revisions. It is due to the Executive Committee April 26, 2005.

#### Legislative Event

We have created a subcommittee that will begin planning for the next Legislative Event. Members who have volunteered for the subcommittee are Elmer Cerano, Marcia De Wild, Pam Hall, Jane Spitzley, Jacqui Day, Bruce Parney and Andre Robinson. We have a list of the legislators that attended this year, and it was given to the PPC. The PPC has asked the group to begin by possibly coming up with a better Welcome speech, and to redesign the evaluation form, and provide assistance in filling them out next year.

#### Legislative Update

The House and Senate are working on budgets in MI. The controversial cuts to vision and hearing screening in schools are being considered. Should the PPC respond to this, and other cuts? This cut seems to violate "No Child Left Behind". For cuts that occur, we could provide consumers with

alternate resources (like we did with dental cuts) to get those services.

Revenue Enhancements seem to be very unpopular this year. The “Price of Government Approach” is being used. The theory is that administrative costs are wasting money. To eliminate that, the structure of government would have to be changed.

A bulletin was mentioned listing cuts that Medicaid providers are facing. PPC members would like a copy.

#### Education

The State Board of Education is reviewing a Referent Committee Report. Comments are due 4/30/05. The language may need some simplification, and work on definitions such as: “all kids”.

#### HIWG

Update on the Video project re: impact of Medicaid video being compiled by the Health Issues Work Group. It is a project proposal to the Council. They would like money to distribute 500 copies.

#### Announcements

Former DDC member Ted Beck has been very ill, and a card will be signed and sent. O.S.A. free forums are being held statewide, see Pam Hall for more details.  
May 1 “Riding the Bus with my sister” movie will be on TV.

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### **Program Committee**

April 12, 2005

Present: Barb Leroy, Diane Kempen,

Corrie Bair, Shari Lynne Denton,  
Kathie Janego, Tai Martin, Glenn  
Ashley, Cheryl Trommater, Tracy  
Vincent

Welcome, Introductions.

Diane requested checking that she is getting the mailings for non-council meeting days.

Housekeeping: Minutes of the March meeting

Minutes approved by consensus.

Review of grant program:

RFP Survey analysis

The committee identified the following additional issues:

- ◆ Exact same paperwork is required for small and large grants.
- ◆ A cultural shift is taking place that changes the expectations of applicants and of grant making in general.
- ◆ As we work to change the RFP, we must all remember tendency for committees to add stuff instead of simplifying.

Development Process:

- ◆ Glenn, Cheryl and Corrie will look at the areas identified in the survey and the RFP elements, and pick specific problematic areas to work on. Recommendations will be reviewed at the committee meetings.
- ◆ Start with the end in mind, what we want to receive, then modify the proposal forms, then the instructions and RFP.

Planning for Future projects

Plan Language – Study of Careers for College Graduates with Disabilities

Diane moved, and Kathie seconded, that the program committee recommended that this proposal, as revised, be forwarded to the

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